

example, the GAO has found that only about 21 percent of Medicaid children between the ages of one and two have been screened. In the state of New Jersey, only about 39 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid have been screened.

Based on these reviews at both the state and federal levels, it is obvious that improvements must be made to ensure that children are screened early and receive follow up treatment if lead is detected. That is why I am introducing this legislation which I believe will address some of the shortcomings that have been identified in existing requirements.

The legislation will require Medicaid providers to screen children and cover treatment for children found to have elevated levels of lead in their blood. It will also require improved data reporting of children who are tested, so that we can accurately monitor the results of the program. Because more than 75 percent—or nearly 700,000—of the children found to have elevated blood lead levels are part of federally-funded health care programs, our bill targets not only Medicaid, but also Head Start, Early Head Start and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Head Start and WIC programs would be allowed to perform screening or to mandate that parents show proof of screenings in order to enroll their children.

Education, early screening and prompt follow-up care will save millions in health care costs; but, more importantly will save our greatest resource—our children.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING PREVENTION ACT

##### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by 40 of my colleagues in introducing the "Accidental Shooting Prevention Act" to address the large number of firearm injuries and deaths that occur when users mistakenly fire guns they believe are not loaded. This sensible bipartisan legislation would require that all semiautomatic firearms manufactured after January 1, 2004, which have removable magazines, be equipped with plainly visible chamber load indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms.

As with many other consumer products, firearm design can reduce the risk of injury. But unlike other products, gun design decisions have been largely left to manufacturers. Fortunately, firearms manufacturers have already produced many guns with safety devices, such as chamber load indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms, which can help reduce the risk of accidental injuries.

A chamber load indicator indicates that the gun's firing chamber is loaded with ammunition, but to be effective, a user must be aware of the indicator. Generally, chamber load indicators display the presence of ammunition via a small protrusion somewhere on the handgun. Unfortunately, most chamber load indicators do not clearly indicate their existence to untrained users or observers. We must ensure these indicators are easily visible to all gun users, and my legislation will do just that.

By comparison, a magazine disconnect mechanism is an interlocking device which prevents a firearm from being fired when its ammunition magazine is removed, even if there is a round in the chamber. Interlocks are found on a wide variety of consumer products to reduce injury risks. For example, most new cars have an interlocking device that prevents the automatic transmission shifter from being moved from the "park" position unless the brake pedal is depressed. It is common sense that a product as dangerous as a gun should contain a similar safety mechanism.

This is an issue of great importance to me. At the age of sixteen, I was left paralyzed when a police officer's gun accidentally discharged and severed my spine. Had the gun involved in my accident been equipped with a chamber load indicator, the officer would have known that the weapon was loaded. Clearly, mistakes can happen even when guns are in the hands of highly trained weapons experts, which is why safety devices are so critical.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the 40 original co-sponsors of this bill in reducing the risk of unintentional shootings. Please co-sponsor this responsible measure, and help make guns safer for consumer use while protecting those unfamiliar with the operation of guns.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. AND MRS. WALSH

##### HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to announce to you, and to the rest of my esteemed colleagues, that on August 4, 2001, Mr. and Mrs. William Walsh will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Gloria and Bill were both born in Chicago, Illinois. On November 20, 1930, Gloria Augusta was born to Frank and Martha Velten. On October 22, 1929, William and Myrtle Walsh gave birth to William Kenneth.

Although they both graduated from Blue Island High School, they did not meet prior to graduation. It was after graduation, while members of a social club—Gloria was the Secretary-Treasurer and Bill was the President—that they met and began their lifelong partnership.

Gloria and Bill expanded their family with the birth of two daughters, Cynthia and Dawn. In 1959, Bill brought his family to Anaheim, California, and two years later co-founded Continental Vending, a successful family business he still manages.

The marriage of Gloria and Bill is a love story that is still in progress. Their "I do's" are as sincere and heartfelt today as they were 50 years ago and deserve our commendation.

It is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize this grand occasion and join with family and friends to honor William and Gloria Walsh on their 50 years of committed marriage.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Orange County, I extend our sincere congratulations to Bill and Gloria Walsh.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD NEVINS OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

##### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Richard Nevins, who died on Saturday following a bodysurfing accident at St. Malo Beach in Oceanside, California.

Mr. Nevins was a life-long resident of Pasadena, in the Congressional District I am proud to represent. He was very well-known throughout Pasadena, and indeed California as a whole, as a political representative, civic activist, and supporter of the beautification and heritage of his community.

Dick served seven terms on the California State Board of Equalization—an impressive feat. During his terms on the Board he did much to instill a culture of service and professionalism. He was referred to as "... an encyclopedia of tax policy" by Lawrence de Graaf who took an oral history from Nevins shortly after his retirement. Professionally he was active in the State Association of County Assessors of California, International Association of Assessing Officers, National Association of Tax Administrators and American Society for Public Administration—Los Angeles Board of Directors. In addition to these professional organizations, Nevins was active in the Los Angeles Urban League, the NAACP (Pasadena Chapter), the World Affairs Council, Town Hall and the Commonwealth Club.

His political legacy also included service as a delegate to three national conventions, including the 1960 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, where he was an early supporter of presidential candidate John F. Kennedy. He continued to promote Democratic candidates for the rest of his life. After retiring from the State Board of Equalization in 1986 he served as President of the Boards of the Pasadena Historical Museum and Pasadena Beautiful. He was a familiar figure in his 1935 Ford pickup truck carrying around—gardening tools and planting trees. In fact, one week before his passing, California Governor Gray Davis approved \$20,000 in the state budget on a project Dick had lobbied for—landscaping at Pasadena schools. A fitting final contribution for his beloved home city.

Dick was known and loved by people throughout his community. His service as a political representative, his work on civic affairs in Pasadena, and his spirit of community involvement will undoubtedly be felt for years in our region.

Dick graduated from Arroyo Elementary School and Polytechnic School in Pasadena; from Midland School in Los Olivos; and from Yale University with a bachelor's degree in government in 1943. He was also a veteran who served our nation in the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II.

Dick is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Lois; by three sons, Richard Jr., William and Henry; and by five grandchildren.

I would like to convey to his family and his many many friends, my deepest sympathies. Dick Nevins will be missed by all who knew him.

EGYPTIAN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BASED ON REAL OR PERCEIVED SEXUAL ORIENTATION

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. TOM LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the night of May 10, 2001, Egyptian police arrested 52 Egyptian men because they frequented a gay night club. Since then, these men have been denied counsel, the have been tortured, they have had their reputations attacked, and they have been arraigned on trumped up charges of "obscene behavior" despite the fact that Egypt has no laws expressly criminalizing consensual homosexual behavior. Furthermore, if these men are convicted, under Egypt's Emergency State Security Court system, they will not have the right to appeal and may be sentenced up to nine years in prison. Mr. Speaker, by jailing, torturing, and denying a fair trial to people because of their real or perceived sexual orientation, the Egyptian government once again demonstrates its disregard of the human rights of its citizens, and its willingness to deny them the right of free association and due process.

Egypt is clearly violating the human rights of these 52 men. Reports indicate that these men have been tortured with electroshocks, whipped while in prison, threatened with dogs, and they have been forced to undergo degrading and intrusive examinations designed to "prove" that they have been partners in homosexual relations. Mr. Speaker, the Egyptian government has not only harmed these men physically, but has also sought to hurt their reputations. Their names together with identifying details, such as their professions and places of work were published, and they were publicly labeled as members of a "Satanist" organization.

Mr. Speaker, astonishingly even anti-Semitism has been used to defame the detainees. For example, the pro-government press reported that one of the men "confessed" to being "immersed in Judaism." The alleged leader of the so-called "cult" was shown in an evidently doctored photograph in one newspaper with an Israeli flag on his desk.

The Egyptian government's treatment of these 52 men is indicative of a broad pattern of persecution towards religious and secular dissidents. Often these victims of persecution are members of Islamist political movements whom the government sees as a particular threat. In recent months, however, President Mubarak's government has undertaken a number of well publicized prosecutions aimed at secular dissidents. Most notably, the government imposed a seven-year sentence on Saad Eddin Ibrahim, a noted sociologist, for defaming the Egyptian State—a charge apparently prompted by his activism on behalf of religious tolerance and honest elections.

Mr. Speaker, this repressive intolerance has extended to the international sphere. Egypt led the effort, at the recent United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, to eliminate from the final document all references to vulnerable groups including men who have sex with men, sex workers, and IV-drug users. And Egypt also led the unsuccessful effort to deny the right to speak at the Special Session to the International Gay and Les-

bian Human Rights Commission. Local human rights groups in Egypt have been reluctant to act against many of these abuses—fearful their own precarious situation, facing a determinedly draconian government, will be worsened if they defend stigmatized groups. The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, a prominent non-governmental organization, recently fired one of its employees because he pressed them to speak out against the arrests of gay men.

Lawyers have been reluctant to take up the case of these 52 men, fearing their own careers and even freedom could be endangered. The right to legal representation is a basic one, essential to the operations of a free and fair justice system. By creating a climate in which due process it is denied to gay men, the Egyptian government has undermined the basic human rights of all Egyptians.

Mr. Speaker, this body must not ignore the Egyptian government's attempts to violate the human rights of individuals based on their real or perceived sexual orientation. The US government and the governments of all countries should stand up and be counted against Egypt's growing record of intolerance and inhumanity. Our distinguished colleague from Massachusetts Mr. Frank and I, along with 34 of our colleagues are sending a letter to President Mubarak to express our very strong disapproval of the arrest of 52 men in Egypt on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation.

Mr. Speaker, human rights are universal. These basic rights affirm our shared humanity; they should not be applied unequally according to prejudice and fear. We must not let the Egyptian government's rejection of basic human rights go unnoticed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DIXIE LUKE

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and congratulate Dixie Luke for teaching English and social studies to seventh and eighth grade students for thirty years. After providing a positive influence for hundreds of students in their most critical years, she has decided to move on from the teaching profession.

Dixie is a longtime Colorado resident—she was born in Hotchkiss, Colorado, and has lived in Glenwood Springs for thirty years. Even now she returns almost daily to her birthplace to build the foundation for her next adventure, which involves making sheep's milk cheese, including the caring for the sheep. She also plans on planting a nearby vineyard.

In addition to teaching a more traditional English and social studies curriculum, Dixie used an interdisciplinary unit to give her students a different perspective on learning. One example involved taking students on a day trip to Meeker in order to relate literature to real life. The class first read *The Hay Meadow*, by Gary Paulson, which is about a boy in Wyoming who has to go to high country to spend a summer working with sheep. Dixie explained that many of her students are from cities and don't have the personal experience to help them relate to the novel's setting. The class

then visited the sheep dog trials in Meeker, where they were able to watch the highly trained sheep dogs perform several maneuvers. Another example of a favorite part of the job is the "Mosaic" project, which involves teaching the students to use fourteen different reference sources, and then to cite them.

While she is an old hand at working with kids, in the past few years, she has discovered a few new enjoyable aspects of the job. For instance, she says the results of new CSAP testing have provided more verification for how much her students have been learning. "The Glenwood Springs Middle School had the highest reading and writing scores in the district," she proudly explained, and those scores are also well above the State average. "I always thought that we were preparing the kids well, and it was fun to start seeing those results." Also, during her last five or six years of teaching, Dixie has enjoyed working with new teachers. One fun thing is "helping young teachers . . . to work with the kids in the classroom in a successful way," she said.

Mr. Speaker, Dixie Luke has been a fantastic teacher for thirty years. She has committed herself to her students and has helped to equip them with the education and confidence vital for their success. I would like to thank her for her longtime dedication, and I wish her luck on her next adventure.

LEGISLATION WHICH ENHANCES SENIOR CITIZENS' HEALTH CARE

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation which enhances senior citizens' ability to control their health care and use Medicare money to pay for prescription drugs. This legislation accomplishes these important goals by removing the numerical limitations and sunset provisions in the Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSAs) program so that all seniors can take advantage of the Medicare MSA option.

Medicare MSAs consist of a special savings account containing Medicare funds for seniors to use for their routine medical expenses, including prescription drug costs. Seniors in a Medicare MSA program are also provided with a catastrophic insurance policy to cover non-routine expenses such as major surgery. Under an MSA plan, the choice of whether to use Medicare funds for prescription drug costs, or other services not available under traditional Medicare such as mammograms, are made by the senior, not by bureaucrats and politicians.

One of the major weaknesses of the Medicare program is that seniors do not have the ability to use Medicare dollars to cover the costs of prescription medicines, even though prescription drugs represent the major health care expenditure for many seniors. Medicare MSAs give those seniors who need to use Medicare funds for prescription drugs the ability to do so without expanding the power of the federal bureaucracy or forcing those seniors who currently have prescription drug coverage into a federal one-size-fits-all program.

Medicare MSAs will also ensure seniors access to a wide variety of health care services